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**Subject:** More news for Region 3

### **USGS report links Midwest temblors to oil, gas production**

A U.S. Geological Survey study found a possible link between a significant rise in minor earthquakes in the Midwest and oil and natural gas production. A mild increase in seismic activity along the state line between New Mexico and Colorado started when methane production commenced in that area, said William Ellsworth of the USGS, the study's lead author. However, Ellsworth said he is confident that the temblors weren't caused by hydraulic fracturing

### **N.Y. university creates fracking research institute**

The University of Buffalo has established the Shale Resources and Society Institute, which will concentrate on hydraulic fracturing research. "We're really trying to provide fact-based, objective information," said John Martin, co-director of the institute. The effort comes as the New York Department of Environmental Conservation is working on a study about whether fracking can be performed safely under tight rules. The Wall Street Journal/The Associated Press (4/7), Star-Gazette (Elmira, N.Y.)

### **EPA: No signs of contamination at 20 more wells in Pa. township**

The Environmental Protection Agency didn't detect elevated levels of contamination in 20 more water wells in Dimock Township, Pa., the agency said in a report. Residents there claim Cabot Oil & Gas polluted their wells with drilling chemicals. "This data confirms the earlier EPA finding that levels of contaminants found do not possess a threat to human health and the environment," said Cabot spokesman George Stark. Bloomberg Businessweek/The Associated Press (4/6), The Philadelphia Inquirer

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**Debbie Scholz**

**\*\*\*\*Check out our new Website\*\*\*\***

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